

Claims:

1. A method for producing customizable audio speech for use by a person wishing to use such speech to communicate with others, which comprises the steps of
  - a) creating a plurality of sets and sub-sets of words, phrases and sentences in text form in a source language;
  - b) creating a plurality of sets and sub-sets of digital speech audio files corresponding to words, phrases and sentences in one or more target languages in different voices, by recording the voices speaking the words, phrases and sentences in the one or more target languages;
  - c) associating each of the words, phrases and sentences in text form in the source language with one or more of the digital speech audio files, in the one or more target languages so that selection of the text form in the source language allows retrieval of the corresponding digital speech audio file in the one or more target languages in a specific voice and storing said associated sets in a central open server in digitized electronic form in a database;
  - d) organizing said words, phrases and sentences in text form in the source language into conversational social groups and subgroups;
  - e) coding said words, phrases and sentences, and said conversational social groups and subgroups to allow for rapid retrieval and for customization of same into personal groups and subgroups;
  - f) means for communicating requests to the central open server for additional words, phrases and sentences in text in source language to be created in additional digital audio files in one or more target languages in one or more voices; which may form part of existing or new conversational social groups and subgroups;
  - g) creating said additional digital audio files on a closed server for access by the requester only;
  - h) means for a requester to alter and create new conversational social groups and subgroups;

- i) means for playing said selected digital audio speech files so that a user may use such words, phrases and sentences to communicate by speech with others in a selected target language; and
- j) means for graphically displaying the one or more selected digital audio speech files to verify what is being spoken to the user.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein access to the central servers is by a workstation directly connected thereto or capable of connection through an internet connection or other suitable means.

3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the workstation comprises a portable device which includes display means for displaying selected text in source language, audio playing means for playing selected digital speech audio files, and means for communicating with the central servers and/or means for playing media containing recorded test and digital speech audio files copied from the central servers.